

Message Text

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41

ACTION HEW-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 INR-10 MED-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 SCA-01 SCI-06 USIA-15 PRS-01

CIAE-00 AID-20 FDRE-00 SCS-03 PPT-02 DRC-01 /125 W

----- 022696

R 171245Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

ININFO RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE 423

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, MZ

SUBJECT: CHOLERA IN MOZAMBIQUE CONTINUES

REF: A) LOURENCO MARQUES 744, B) LOURENCO MARQUES 752

1. CHOLERA CASES CONTINUE TO APPEAR IN AT LEAST THREE CENTRAL DISTRICTS OF MOZAMBIQUE, THOUGH EPIDEMIC APPEARS TO BE WANING.

OFFICIAL PUBLISHED STATISTICS THROUGH DECEMBER 1 RECORD 692

CASES AND 77 DEATHS SINCE EPIDEMIC BEGAN EARLY SEPTEMBER,

WITH PEAK IN WEEK OF OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 3 WHEN 186 CASES

AND 10 DEATHS WERE RECORDED. THIS HAD DROPPED TO 43 CASES

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WITH 4 DEATHS IN WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 1. HOWEVER,

BRAZILIAN DOCTOR IN CHARGE OF IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN (REF B) NOW ESTIMATES THAT THERE HAVE BEEN TOTAL OF 5,000 CASES AND PERHAPS 1,000 DEATHS, THOUGH NOT ALL THESE CLINICALLY PROVEN TO BE CHOLERA.

2. CENTERS OF INFECTION CONTINUE TO BE ZAMBEZIA, BEIRA, AND TETE DISTRICTS, WITH MOST SEVERE SITUATION NEAR CITIES OF TETE AND BEIRA. HOWEVER, THERE AT LEAST ONE REPORTED CASE AS FAR SOUTH AS NOVA MOMBONE, ON SOUTH SIDE OF SAVE RIVER. BEIRA AREA GRADUALLY BEING BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL, AND CURRENT EFFORTS NOW AIMED AT SEALING OFF AREAS OF INFECTION IN GUERRILLA-INFESTED TERRITORY JUST SOUTH OF TETE CITY. HEALTH TEAMS HAVE NOT BEEN MOLESTED BY GUERRILLAS. VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS HAVE REPORTEDLY REACHED 400,000 PEOPLE IN LOURENCO MARQUES AND SOME 500,000 IN THE AFFECTED AREAS.

3. EFFORTS AT CONTROL HAVE BEEN HAMPERED BY GENERALLY MILD NATURE OF MOZAMBICAN STRAIN, WHICH RESULTS IN MANY CARRIERS WITH FEW OR NO SYMPTOMS OF DISEASE. CHOLERA VACCINATIONS REQUIRED FOR PERSONS ENTERING OR LEAVING AFFECTED DISTRICTS, AND FOR INTERNAL AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL.

4. HEALTH AUTHORITIES NOW BELIEVE ORIGINAL FOCUS OF EPIDEMIC WAS MALAWI, PENETRATING SOUTHWARD TO MUTARARA AREA AND FROM THERE BY RAIL SOUTH TO BEIRA AND NORTH TO TETE. HOWEVER, MALAWIAN CASES REPORTEDLY MORE SEVERE THAN MOZAMBICAN ONES.

5. COMMENT: THERE SEEMS AT LEAST HOPE THAT EPIDEMIC IS NOW DYING DOWN, BUT THE CHANCES ARE THAT SOME FOCI OF INFECTION MAY REMAIN IN MOZAMBIQUE FOR SOME TIME.
VAN OSS

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